

THE MOHAHVE MUSE

Mohahve Historical Society
P.O. Box 21, Victorville, Ca 92393



Volume 25 Issue 1
January 2022

President: Marcy Taylor, **VP:** Delvin Harbour, **Treasurer:** Carol Wiley, **Rec Secy:** Julie Moffat, **Corres Secy:** Therese Moore
Directors: Mary Dutro, Julia Jackson, Carol Johnson, Mike Phillips, Rick Schmidt

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President's Corner

Hello MHS members, and welcome to another year of sharing our love for history. Here's hoping you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and assuming you were good, that Santa made all your wishes come true. So get ready for a 2022 full of new adventures!

We will start the new year off right with a Jan. 27 presentation by Steve Smith entitled "Barstow's Main Street." A long-time Barstow resident and 20-year Mojave River Valley Museum member, Steve has devoted endless hours to preserving the history of his Route 66 town. In addition to submitting interesting and informative articles to the museum's "Desert Tailings" newsletter, he is a frequent speaker at community meetings and events, and has for years led walking tours of the Barstow Main Street Murals, reciting the history of each one from memory. He's the "Go-to Guy" for desert lore, who was recently interviewed for a Daily Press article on the top secret "Area 51" CIA mission involving UFOs in the desert. Hmmm, wonder how he knows this stuff. Don't miss the chance to hear him share his wealth of

knowledge with us. A follow-up fieldtrip will be held Sat. Jan. 29 to several Barstow museums. Meet at 10 A.M. at the Mojave River Valley Museum on Barstow Rd. We will proceed to the Route 66 Mother Road Museum and Railroad Museum at the Harvey House, grab some lunch, and then explore the Main Street Murals. Sign up at the Jan. 27th meeting, at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours, or by calling (760) 985-1918. See photos on Page 6.

The "Buzz Book" i.e. Membership Directory is almost complete. If you submitted your information, either last year or more recently, you will receive a copy. They will become available for pick-up at the Jan. 27th meeting, the Jan. 29th fieldtrip, or at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum during open hours Mon. through Sat. 10-4:00 or Sun. 12-6:00 after Jan. 27. We would like not to mail them out, but will accommodate you if requested. Thanks to Corresponding Secretary Therese Moore for updating and formatting the booklets, and having them printed.

Marcy

MHS website: www.mohahve.org Email: Mohahve64@gmail.com (Stormie Reid - Webmaster)

MHS Upcoming Events

- Jan. 27 MHS Mtg. 6:30 Lone Wolf Colony**
Steve Smith "Barstow Main Street"
- Jan. 29 Fieldtrip**
Barstow Museums and Main Street Murals
- Feb. 24 MHS Mtg. 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony**
Rebecca Dougherty "Annie Rikert, Calico's Lady Miner"
- Feb. 26 Clampers Monuments Driving Tour**
- Mar. 24 MHS Mtg. 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony**
Scott Johnson "Hesperia History"
- Mar. 26 Desert Springs Ranch - Mojave River Crossing**
- Apr. 28 MHS Mtg. 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony**
Nelson Miller- "Black Mountain and Inscription Canyon"
- Apr. 30 Fieldtrip**
Black Mountain and Inscription Canyon
- May 26 MHS Mtg. 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony**
Delvin Harbour "The History of Ham Radio on the Desert"
- May 28 Fieldtrip** Route 66 Museum, Victorville
- Jun. 23 MHS Mtg. 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony**
Marcy Taylor "The Amazing Influence of Dale Evans"
- Jun. 25 "Saturday Night Bath" Movie**
at Apple Valley Legacy Museum
- Jul. 1st Driving Fieldtrip** Old Rt. 66, Victorville to Oro Grande to Helendale to Barstow (Sagebrush Annie directions)
- Aug. 27 Fieldtrip: Wrightwood Museum visit.**
- Sep. 22 MHS Mtg. 7:00pm Lone Wolf Colony**
Norman Bossom - "The Big Horn Mine"
- Sep. 24 Fieldtrip:** History and hike to Hilltop House with refreshments at AVL

Community Upcoming Events

- Jan. 17** Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace March. Meet at the Victorville Courthouse parking lot at 10:00am.
- Jan. 22** "Apple Valley Inn: Then and Now" event 10:30-3:00 at the Main Inn building 20601 Highway 18. \$12 Tickets include lunch and inn tours. See flyer on page 7.

Now until February 27 - The Smithsonian Institute's Traveling **"Negro Motorist Green Book"** exhibit is at the California Museum in Sacramento. Items from the MHS History Room and the Apple Valley Legacy Museum are part of a prominent display highlighting the "Murray's Overall-Wearing Dude Ranch" once owned by Pearl Bailey and her husband Louie Belson, in what is now Apple Valley.

The 2022 **Apple Valley Town calendars** are now available free of charge. Loads of community events are listed, along with gorgeous photographs of local sites and events. Two Apple Valley citizens who recently made history, **Chayce Beckham** American Idol winner and **Megan Jastrab** Olympic Cycling Bronze medalist, are highlighted. Pick up a calendar today at Town Hall or the AV Legacy Museum.

2021 Victorville Christmas Parade



Community members representing the Mohave Historical Society, Apple Valley Legacy Museum, the Deep Creek Hot Springs Campground at Bowen Ranch, and the local K36JH TV Station created a festive entry in the annual Victorville Christmas Parade, which rolled down 7th Street Sat. Dec. 4. The 1966 Unimog fire truck driven by Brent Gadddis, President of the Mojave River Valley Museum, boasted a five-



piece band of Santa's musical helpers in the truck bed, and a singing elf waving to the crowd from the hatch. The historic Route 66 was alive with the Christmas spirit, from the top of 7th Street down to Old Town, the original heart of Victorville.

By Marcy Taylor

MHS MONUMENTS TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION



The Mohave Historical Society is strongly committed to its on-going preservation of all its historical monuments and markers. The task includes repairs and the removal of trash, weeds and graffiti. The financial support of the community is needed. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Name _____ Phone _____

Amount _____ Receipt needed? _____

Please make checks to: Mohave Historical Society.
Submit in person or mail to:
MHS, PO Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393



Jim Jacobs installing the 2022 MHS Directors.

The evening wouldn't have been complete without the traditional sing-along of some Christmas favorites, led by six MHS members: Patty Hedges, Delvin Harbour, Anna Diamond, Eric Mandeson, Toni Clegg, and Marcy Taylor. After being cancelled last December, it sure was nice to be able to share companionship and the Christmas spirit with the many members and guests who were in attendance this year, ushering in 2022.

MHS Christmas Party and 2022 Board Installation by Marcy Taylor

On Friday December 17, the Mohahve Historical Society held its annual Christmas Party and Installation of Officers at the historic Lone Wolf Colony. As guests arrived, they could browse the "Christmas Special" book table, pick up some free cookies and bags, or stop at the "Rent-a-hat" table if their Christmas outfit needed a bit of sprucing up.

After a warm welcome, attendees were treated to several hilarious skits, courtesy of the Taylors. The LWC staff made sure no one went away hungry, as they served up a delicious ham and turkey dinner with all the fixin's.

Next up was the important business of the evening. Former board member Jim Jacobs had the honor of installing the 2022 board: Directors Rick Schmidt, Julia Jackson, Mike Phillips, Carol Johnson and Mary Dutro; Treasurer Carol Wiley, Corresponding Secretary Therese Moore, Recording Secretary Julie Moffat, Vice President Delvin Harbour, and President Marcy Taylor.



2022 MHS Board of Directors



Grand Opening of the Apple Valley Heritage Room by Marcy Taylor

The Apple Valley Historic Advisory Committee, whose members have for years worked hand in hand with Mohahve Historical Society, hosted the Grand Opening of the Apple Valley Heritage Room at the Dec. 14 Apple Valley Town Council Annual Christmas Tea, preceding the Town Council meeting. Located in Town Hall directly behind the Park and Recreation counter, the room houses a large number of display items and photos, display cases full of memorabilia, as well as book shelves packed with photo albums, scrapbooks, and other materials available for browsing or research purposes.



Rick Piercy, Marcy Taylor and Larry Cusack

Out front with an eye-catching display, courtesy of the Apple Valley Legacy Museum, AVHAC Vice- Chairman Marcy Taylor, also representing MHS and AVLM, welcomed attendees and directed them to the Heritage Room, where Town Representative Lena Quinonez and AVHAC Chairman Rick Piercy, also representing the Lewis Center for Educational Research, shared information and answered questions.



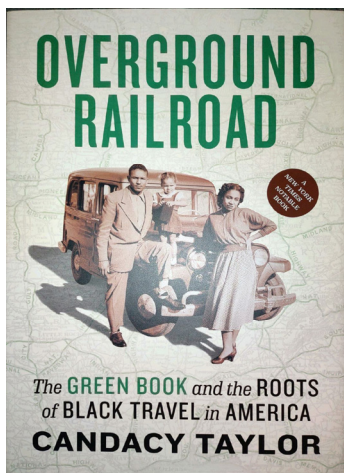
Marcy Taylor and Mayor Pro Tem Art Bishop

Thanks to MHS Treasurer Carol Wiley for her attendance and assistance that evening.

To make an appointment to visit the Heritage Room, call (760) 240-7000 x 7051.

Overground Railroad by Marcy Taylor

"Candacy Taylor's cleverly titled, heroically researched 'Green Book' travelogue should be indispensable reading. The Underground Railroad carried tens of thousands of slaves to freedom. Taylor's 'Overground Railroad' transports their twentieth century descendants" (David Lettering Lewis) during the Jim Crow era of segregation. The various editions of the Green Book identified establishments willing to serve blacks and other minorities, ranging from hotels and restaurants, to gas stations and drug-stores, and one ranch on the "outskirts of Victorville," the Murray's Overall Wearing Dude



Ranch, the only safe stopping place between Needles and Pasadena.

Taylor is the curator of the Murray Ranch display included in the Smithsonian's Traveling Exhibit at the California Museum in Sacramento until February 7. She spent several days here in Apple Valley and Victorville, doing research and taking photos. Marcy Taylor (no relation) was happy to take her on a fieldtrip to the site, to get a feel for the still wide open area, view building foundations, the remains of the windmill and reservoir, Pearl Bailey's house, which is still standing, and to collect a few artifacts. Matthew Cabe was happy to share some Daily Press archived news articles on the Murrays.

Limited copies of "The Overground Railroad" are available for purchase for a reduced price of \$30 at the Apple Valley Legacy Museum and MHS meetings while they last. Get yours today!

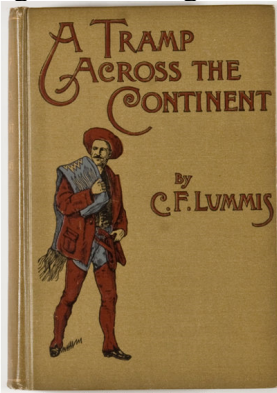
A Tramp Across the Desert by John Marnell – Part 1 of 2

On over the sandy, volcanic wastes, past the barren, contorted ranges of savage ruggedness and wonderful color, I trudged rapidly as possible...

The author is Charles Fletcher Lummis, or "Lum" as he preferred. He nearly graduated from Harvard, moving on to work for a brief time as a farmer then journalist in Chillicothe, Ohio. As a recently married 25-year-old, he and his wife Dorothea decided to move to Southern California after Charles had secured a new job through Harrison Gray Otis publisher of the Los Angeles Times. Their trip to the Angel City was a bit unusual. Dorothea rode the train while Lum began a 143 day "tramp" from Ohio to Los Angeles: a walking journey of 3,507 miles. Lummis was greeted both warmly and suspiciously while on his trip, perhaps due to his peculiar appearance. His garb included well-worn overalls, canvas vest, surmounted by a dusty white felt hat with the skin of a rattlesnake for a band, a six-shooter, and staff in his hand. His various garments were blessed with twenty-three pockets for trinkets, chocolate, tea, and coffee. There is much more to know about Charles Lummis but for now I'll recount a part of what he wrote of his journey across America in 1884 - '85. The narrative that follows is from Lummis' book "A Tramp Across the Continent" supplemented with a few sentences here and there from newspaper articles he had written for the Times. I have taken the liberty to string together attention-grabbing parts of his story as he walked from Needles to Cajon Pass mostly following the railroad tracks of the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad.

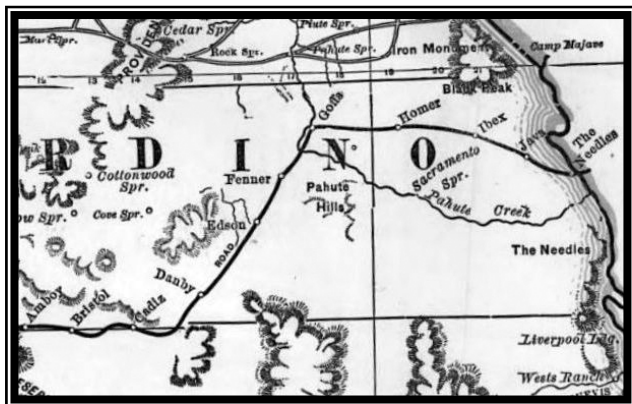


...I came down into the green valley of the Colorado, [encountering] willow thickets and little brush Rancherías of the Mojave Indians. Swarthy women were washing at the little pools. They are a curious and physically admirable race, these Mojaves. I crossed [the Colorado River] on a 1300-foot drawbridge, now abandoned for a finer bridge a dozen miles below. I sat down at the middle of the river, with my heart in California and my liver in Arizona, smoked a reflective pipe, and then jumped along the stringers until at last my feet pressed the sandy soil of the Golden State. After a night at the rather pretty little railroad town of Needles, I started off again into the grim Mojave Desert. It was the beginning of two-hundred miles of suffering. The largest town in 160 miles had three houses. There were not even section men at the rare stations – only a telegraph operator and a track walker. Had filled my pockets before leaving Needles with chocolate and canned corned beef, so wasn't troubled by hunger. You may not know it, but chocolate contains more nourishment in the same bulk than almost anything else one can carry. By night I covered myself with sand or slept in a wooden chair beside the stove in a telegraph office, getting up a dozen times to replenish the fire, and sorely missing my absent blanket. By day I trudged on through the blinding glow, suffering unspeakably from thirst and a good deal still from the broken bone, which was not rapidly knitting. [Lummis had broken his arm falling between two rocks while following a deer track east of Winslow - "He set it himself."] The glare of that desert sun was murderous, and still worse the reflection from the molten sands, which the eye could not escape...Had a good time at Homer, did a lot of writing, slept peacefully beside the stove – for the nights here are as cold as a dog's nose.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

We went on to Fenner. It has a fine large depot and freight house – being the station for the Providence Mines 25 miles north... Starting out from the bunk-house of Amboy I left behind my low shoes because they leaked sand so badly... This is a country of strange things; but none stranger than the appearance of its mountains; the barrest, barrenest, most inhospitable-looking peaks in the whole world, uncordial as they look. Many a good man has left his bones to bleach beside their cliffs... Getting to Daggett, [18 months earlier the town was called Calico Junction] the station for the rich silver-mining camp of Calico, I left the railroad to strike out across the desert. The railway that now runs to Los Angeles was not yet built across the desert and over the ranges to "God's country." The Atlantic & Pacific, backed by the Santa Fe, did not complete the line from San Bernardino to Barstow until November 1, 1885. I found a new companion, a French-Canadian named Albert Munier, he had come to Calico, there fleeced by his employer, [now] penniless and ragged, and wished to get to Los Angeles. Neither of us will be likely to forget that afternoon, the most awful of all my journey. We missed the trail, and for six anguished hours staggered through the heavy sand, over fiery hills and down hollows that were like a furnace. A score of times I thought we must fall and die there. The blood warm water from his canteen seemed to have no effect whatever.



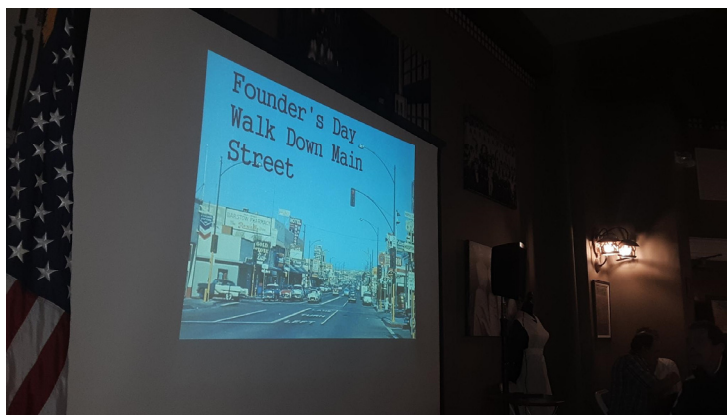
As to the names of the stations Lummis came upon—the Southern Pacific Railroad laid out a series of “Alphabet Towns”, hence: Amboy, Bristol, Cadiz, Danby, Edson, Fenner, Goffs, Homer, Ibox, and Java—mostly named for railroad employees.

The next stop on their desolate and difficult struggle across the Mojave will take us to Stoddard Wells where he and Albert received less than a cordial welcome – but first a little more about the man. Charles Fletcher Lummis was born into the family of a Methodist preacher in 1859, married three times, and a part of a complex family genealogy. Lummis was quite exceptional in many fields. He achieved success as a writer, publisher, editor, photographer, essayist, showman, ethnographer, collector, museum founder, city librarian, eccentric, an activist for historical preservation and native American rights, and some suggest he was quite the gigolo. At the Los Angeles home which he built, he was well-known for the parties he gave – calling them “noises” - entertaining such notables as John Muir, Mary Austin, Maynard Dixon, John Burroughs, Clarence Darrow, John Phillip Sousa, Idah Strobbridge, and Will Rogers.



The home Charles Lummis built over a 12-year period, with little outside help was called *El Alisal* (the sycamores) and it still stands in the Highland Park area of Los Angeles. Nearby is also the Southwest Museum founded by Lummis. Both are open for tours on weekends as of this writing.

January Speaker



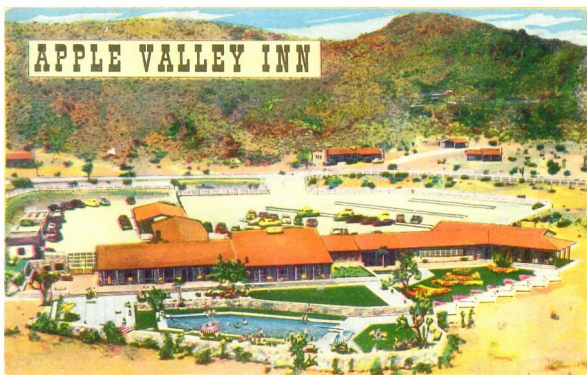
Our January speaker, Barstow resident Steve Smith, will present a fascinating PowerPoint on "Barstow's Main Street."



Two local ladies portrayed the famous Harvey Girls at Smith's August presentation at the Barstow Harvey House.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Saturday January 22, 2022 - Apple Valley Inn "Then & Now"



Tickets - \$12.00

include tours & lunch

10:30 Doors Open

11-12:30 Guided tours

1:00pm Lunch - dining room

2:00pm Museum visits

Lobby Events

Raffle - Vintage items

Silent Auction - Collectibles

Photos with Roy & Dale

Displays & Sales

2:45pm Raffle/Auction Results

**Tickets - AV Legacy Museum
or Call (760) 985-1918**

Mysteries of the Universe

by Ken Churchill

I have been fascinated by Geology since 1952 when I took a course at UCLA. Plate Tectonics were unknown then. It was then a mystery how California rose up from the Pacific Ocean. Now we know that the Pacific Plate slid under the North American Plate pushing California up from the ocean.

Now another mystery has occurred in astronomy. The Web telescope, the largest telescope in existence, has discovered galaxies 26 billion light years away. How can that be since galaxies are invisible at 13 billion light years away?

Galaxies at the edge of the universe are moving away at almost the speed of light. So galaxies 13 years ago which were still visible are now 26 billion light years away. Even though the galaxies aren't visible now, the light from them is still visible. It is like water in a garden house. If you turn the faucet off, the hose is still full of water.

Old Town Victorville was full of the Christmas Spirit Sat. Dec. 11, as crowds of locals visited the numerous vendor booths, enjoyed the musical entertainment, both on the main stage and the sidewalk, and visited the Victor Valley Legacy Museum and adjoining booth. No Christmas celebration would be



MHS members Patty and Carol greeting customers at the Crafts Fair booth

complete without a visit to Santa Claus, who arrived just in time to fulfill the wishes of young and old. One excited child was heard to say as he showed off his goody bag, "Santa gave me this because I was on his nice list!" No attendee went home hungry or empty-handed. If you missed this event, never fear, the Santa Fe Trading Co. store is open seven days a week at 15456 7th Street, directly across the street from the Veteran's statue.

MOHAHVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Email address: mohahve64@gmail.com Website: www.mohahve.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

ANNUAL: FAMILY/COUPLE ☐ \$30
 SINGLE ☐ \$20

STUDENT AGE: ☐ \$10 ☐ BUSINESS \$35

LIFETIME: FAMILY/COUPLE ☐ \$200
 SINGLE ☐ \$150

☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW MEMBER

Questions? Call (760) 985-1918

Please make your check out to:
 Mohahve Historical Society

Mail the completed form and your payment to:

Membership
 Mohahve Historical Society
 P.O. Box 21, Victorville, CA 92393

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO RENEW OR CHANGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS
 (Name, Address, Phone, Email) and submit by USPS, Email or in person at a general meeting)



Remember to shop at smile.amazon.com which donates 0.5% of your purchase to MHS. Most items qualify, but you will be told if is not.



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